UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/751;288	12/29/2000	John R. Stefanik	00335	8905

52270 7590 09/07/2005

POTOMAC PATENT GROUP, PLLC
P.O. BOX 270
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22404

EXAMINER	
MA, JOHNNY	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2617	

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/751,288	STEFANIK, JOHN R.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Johnny Ma	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 June 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *8-15 and 20-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *8-15 and 20-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-15 and 20-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson et al, (US 6,484,011 B1) in further view of Ben-Ze'ev (US 6,791,467 B1) and Williams et al. (US 5,977,964).

As to claim 8, note the Thompson et al. reference that discloses a non-telephonic, wireless information presentation device. The claimed remote control device including "a processor" is met by microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "a remote control receiver in communication with the processor" is met by IR receiver 34 coupled to microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "an input device in communication with the processor" is met by keyboard 15 coupled to microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "an output device in communication with the processor" is met by LCD 14 and speaker 50 coupled to microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "and an electronic device" including "a receiver for receiving signals from the remote control device" is met by IR or RF wireless link to the remote control (Thompson 3:53-61). The claimed "an electronic program guide; transmitter in

communication with the electronic program guide; the transmitter for transmitting data from the electronic program guide to the remote control device" is met by IR or RF wireless link to the remote control (Thompson 3:53-61) wherein "[I]n the operation of the annunciator 10, a signal is received either by the IR receiver 34 or the RF receiver 36 and such signal contains selected information, typically including an advertisement" (Thompson 5:48-51) and the display of TV programming for a particular channel or time period as shown in Fig. 9 (Thompson 6:10-16). Note the Thompson et al. reference discloses receiving selected information at the remote control device (Thompson 5:48-55). However, the Thompson et al. reference is silent providing scheduled alerts to a user. Now note the Ben-Ze'ev reference that discloses an adaptive remote controller. The claimed "an output device in communication with the processor" is met by processing unit 33 in communication with sound card 61 and display 35 (Ben-Ze'ev, see Figure 3). The claimed "wherein the output device is for providing an alert to a user when a scheduled event occurs" is met by "the application file may cause the remote controller to activate some sounds. For example, if the water in a kettle has reached the boiling temperature (or any temperature that may be set by the user), the kettle may send or activate an application at the remote controller that first sounds an alarm (such as 'beep-beep-beep'), and then confirms this fact on the screen, e.g., by a message: 'The water is boiling" (Ben-Ze'ev 10:1-25). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. remote controller with the Ben-Ze'ev remote controller with event alerts for the purpose of providing a user feedback regarding events of interest in situations where a user may not be in close proximity to the device. Note the Thompson

et al. and Ben-Ze'ev combination teaches an electronic program guide remote control device for providing event alerts to a user via remote controller. However the Thompson et al. and Ben-Ze'ev combination is silent as to "wherein the output device is for providing an alert to a user when a scheduled event occurs." Now note the Williams et al. reference that discloses a method and apparatus for automatically configuring a system based on a user's monitored system interaction and preferred system access times. The claimed "providing an alert to a user when a scheduled event occurs" is met by in an alternate embodiment, system controller 104 may provide programming suggestions to a user well in advance (e.g., a couple of days or weeks), with options for issuing reminder prompts, to record the program, or to forego further prompts of the program (Williams et al. 12:36-40). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. and Ben-Ze'ev data displayed on remote control device including event related alerts with the Williams et al. reminder prompts for the purpose of providing users easily accessible alerts for program events such as during periods when a television display is in an off state or the user is not near the television device. The claimed "wherein the data indicates an occurrence of the scheduled event" is met by the Thompson et al., Ben-Ze'ev, and Williams et al. combination where reminder prompt data is sent to the remote control device.

As to claim 9, the claimed "wherein the data include television program starting times" is met by "annunciator 10 can be programmed to display the programming on a number or all the channels over a short time period" (Thompson 6:39-43) wherein EPG data includes start time information as illustrated in Figure 9.

As to claim 10, the claimed "further comprising a telephonic device in communication with the transmitter" is met by "[i]t will be understood that the host device with which the annunciator 10 communicates, either by IR (34, 35) or by RF (36,37), to receive or transmit information, can be a cable decoder box, a satellite decoder box, a telephone company decoder box, a television set or a computer" (Thompson et al. 6:9-13).

As to claim 11, the claimed "wherein the output device includes at least one of a speaker and a light source" is met by LCD display and speaker 50 (Thompson et al. 5:39-42) and back-lighting to illuminate the visual display or sound producing circuitry (Thompson et al. 7:47-50). Also note the rejection of claim 8 regarding the remote control LCD screen and speaker.

4. Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson et al, (US 6,484,011 B1) in further view of Ben-Ze'ev (US 6,791,467 B1), Williams et al. (US 5,977,964), and Croy et al. (US 6,509,908 B1).

As to claims 12-15, note the Thompson et al. reference discloses remote controller with a display (Thompson 3:14-25). However, the Thompson et al. reference is silent as to the use of smart cards. Now note the Croy et al. reference that discloses a personal navigator system. The claimed "wherein the remote control device further comprises a smart card reader/writer in communication the processor" is met by the remote device 200 can be equipped with a reading interface 260 for smart cards (SC) and the like or a plug-in module interface 262 (Croy 5:35-44) and smart card can be used for storing user information (Croy 6:1-11) wherein a smart card writer is inherent to the successful storage of information on said smart card. The claimed "further comprising a smart card"

is met by "smart cards can be cards with the standard magnetic stripe or more advanced with built-in memory or computer chip" (Croy 5:37-39). The claimed "wherein the smart card is configured to include information concerning at least one of a user profile, a user history, a favorite show, a favorite channel, a favorite theme, a channel order, a parental control, a pay-per view purchase, and a pay-per-view spending limit" is met by smart card may be used to store personal profiles of the customer (Croy 6:8-11). The claimed "wherein the smart card is configured to include information concerning at least one of a user Internet profile, an e-mail account, an Internet browser bookmark, an account name, an address list, a security feature, and a display format for Internet browsing on a television monitor" is met by "[a]fter reading the smart card, the user may additionally be asked to identify himself/herself through input of a smart card personal identification number (PIN, number, or code) for enabling special services" (Croy 6:12-21) and "smart cards can be used for identification or they can supply a small amount of (e.g., decremented data to enable services e.g. like telephony cards, Also, a conventional money card/cash card may be used to pay for services or load cash onto the card" (Croy 5:46-50). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. remote control with the Croy smart card for the purpose of providing security, profiles, and other additional options to a user and allowing for easy expansion of services/options provided to a user.

5. Claims 20, 21, and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson et al, (US 6,484,011 B1) in further view of Ben-Ze'ev (US 6,791,467 B1), Williams et al. (US 5,977,964), and Eggen et al. (US 6,388,715 B1).

As to claim 23, note the Thompson et al. reference that discloses a non-telephonic, wireless information presentation device. The claimed remote control device including "a processor" is met by microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "a remote control receiver in communication with the processor" is met by IR receiver 34 coupled to microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "wherein the remote control receiver is for receiving data from an electronic program guide" is met by "[t]he information received from the host device can be in compressed form, can be in the form of drawing commands, such that the software includes instructions for executing the drawing commands by drawing an image on the visual display 14 and/or can be a subset of an electronic program guide for display on the visual display 14 of the annunciator 10" (Thompson 7:37-43). The claimed "an input device in communication with the processor" is met by keyboard 15 coupled to microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "an output device in communication with the processor" is met by LCD 14 and speaker 50 coupled to microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "a data storage area in communication with the processor" is met by "[a] ROM/RAM 40 is coupled to a bus 42 connected to the microprocessor 32" (Thompson 5:36-67). However, the Thompson et al. reference is silent as to the remote controller receiving data that indicates the occurrence of a scheduled event. Now note the Ben-Ze'ev reference that discloses an adaptive remote controller wherein "the application file may cause the remote controller to activate some sounds. For example, if the water in a kettle has reached the boiling temperature (or any temperature that may be set by the user), the kettle may send or activate an application at the remote controller that first sounds an alarm (such as 'beep-beep-beep'), and then confirms this fact on the

screen, e.g., by a message: 'The water is boiling" (Ben-Ze'ev 10:1-25). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. remote controller with the Ben-Ze'ev remote controller with event alerts for the purpose of providing a user feedback regarding events of interest in situations where a user may not be in close proximity to the device. Further note the Williams et al. reference that discloses a method and apparatus for automatically configuring a system based on a user's monitored system interaction and preferred system access times. The claimed scheduled event is met by in an alternate embodiment, system controller 104 may provide programming suggestions to a user well in advance (e.g., a couple of days or weeks), with options for issuing reminder prompts, to record the program, or to forego further prompts of the program (Williams et al. 12:36-40) wherein system controller includes an electronic program guide (Williams 7:31-58). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. and Ben-Ze'ev data displayed on remote control device including event related alerts with the Williams et al. reminder prompts for the purpose of providing users easily accessible alerts for program events such as during periods when a television display is in an off state or the user is not near the television device.

The claimed wherein after the processor receives said data from the remote control receiver, the processor retrieves instructions from the data storage area, interprets said data based upon said retrieved instructions and controls said output to produce an alert is met by the Thompson et al., Ben-Ze'ev, and Williams et al. combination as discussed above wherein "[a] ROM/RAM 40 is coupled to a bus 42 connected to the

microprocessor 32 and the processor retrieves instruction from ROM/RAM for interpreting received data (Thompson 5:36-63) and to produce an alert associated with said scheduled event. However, the Thompson et al., Ben-Ze'ev, and Williams et al. combination is silent as to customized alerts. Now note the Eggen et al. reference that discloses a television receiver that produces an auditive signal which is characteristic of the relevant program category (Eggen, see Abstract). The claimed "customized alert" is met by "receiver further comprises user-operable means for selecting a desired television program to be received when it is broadcast; and means for reproducing the auditive signal which is characteristic of the program category of the selected television program when said television program is about to be broadcast" (Eggen 1:56-63) wherein "[e]xamples of characteristic sounds are: a gong-stroke for news programs; a cheering audience for sports programs; a part of the tune of a James Bond film for movies" (Eggen 1:49-51). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al., Ben-Ze'ev, and Williams et al. combination remote control reminder prompts with the Eggen et al. characteristic sounds for reminders for the purpose of allowing a user to quickly identify the type of reminder notification presented (Eggen 2:1-13).

As to claim 20, please see rejection of claim 23.

As to claim 21, the claimed "wherein the data include television program starting times" is met by "annunciator 10 can be programmed to display the programming on a number or all the channels over a short time period" (Thompson 6:39-43) wherein EPG data includes start time information as illustrated in Figure 9.

As to claim 24, please see the rejection of claim 23.

As to claim 25, note the Thompson et al., Ben-Ze'ev, Williams et al., and Eggen et al. combination discloses producing customized alerts. However, the Thompson et al., Ben-Ze'ev, and Williams et al. combination is silent as to "wherein said processor detects activation of said input device and , responsive thereto, said processor turns off said customized alert. Nevertheless, the examiner gives Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art to silence an alarm/alert by user activation of a button on the device such as the case for alarm clocks for the purpose of providing the user the option to silence an alert to indicate receipt of the alarm/alert at the user's convenience in order to alleviate any unnecessary distraction/annoyance to the user. Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al., Ben-Ze'ev, and Williams et al. combination accordingly for the above stated advantages.

As to claim 26, note the Thompson et al. reference that discloses a non-telephonic, wireless information presentation device. The claimed remote control device including "a processor" is met by microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "a remote control receiver in communication with the processor" is met by IR receiver 34 coupled to microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "an input device in communication with the processor" is met by keyboard 15 coupled to microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. Note, the Thompson et al. reference discloses "[i]f desired, back-lighting can be provide for illuminating the visual display 14" (Thompson 7:47-48). However, the Thompson et al. reference is silent as to the implementation of the back-lighting. Now note the Chang reference that discloses a talking remote control with display. The claimed "a light source in communication with

the processor" is met by "[t]he microcontroller 46 also controls a light 52 for illuminating the display screen 12 and an IR transmitter 54 for controlling other devices" (Chang [0020]). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. back-lighting option with the Chang light source in communication with the processor for the purpose of providing an user the ability to use remote controller functions in low light conditions and a method to control activation of the light source. The claimed "a data storage area in communication with the processor" is met by "[a] ROM/RAM 40 is coupled to a bus 42 connected to the microprocessor 32" (Thompson 5:36-67). The claimed "a motion detector in communication with the processor" is met by "[f]urther, if desired, a motion detect circuit 54 can be coupled to the microprocessor 32, as shown" (Thompson 5:46-47). The claimed "wherein said processor can retrieve instructions from said storage area and then sends a signal to a light source to illuminate a portion of said input device" is met by the Thompson et al. and Chang combination teaching a remote controller with a light source controlled by the microprocessor wherein the microprocessor retrieves instructions from memory to control remote control functionality (Thompson 5:29-63). The claimed "an output device in communication with the processor" is met by LCD 14 and speaker 50 coupled to microprocessor 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. The claimed "an electronic device" is met by host device (Thompson 7:11-16). The claimed the electronic device including "a receiver for receiving signals from the remote control device" is met by "[i]t will be understood that the host device with which the annunciator 10 communications, either by IR (34,35) or by RF (36,37) to receive or transmit information..." (Thompson 7:11-16). The claimed

"an electronic program guide" is met by "[t]he information received from the host device can be in compressed form, can be in the form of drawing commands, such that the software includes instructions for executing the drawing commands by drawing an image on the visual display 14 and/or can be a subset of an electronic program guide for display on the visual display 14 of the annunciator 10" (Thompson 7:37-43). The claimed "a transmitter in communication with the electronic program guide, the transmitter for transmitting data from the electronic program guide to the remote control device" is met by the receiver, transmitter, and EPG as discussed above. However, the Thompson et al. reference is silent as to the remote controller receiving data that indicates the occurrence of a scheduled event and providing an alert. Now note the Ben-Ze'ev reference that discloses an adaptive remote controller. The claimed "wherein the output device is for providing an alert to the user" is met by "the application file may cause the remote controller to activate some sounds. For example, if the water in a kettle has reached the boiling temperature (or any temperature that may be set by the user), the kettle may send or activate an application at the remote controller that first sounds an alarm (such as 'beep-beep-beep'), and then confirms this fact on the screen, e.g., by a message: 'The water is boiling" (Ben-Ze'ev 10:1-25). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. remote controller with the Ben-Ze'ev remote controller with event alerts for the purpose of providing a user feedback regarding events of interest in situations where a user may not be in close proximity to the device. Further note the Williams et al. reference that discloses a method and apparatus for automatically configuring a system based on a user's monitored system interaction and preferred

system access times. The claimed scheduled event is met by in an alternate embodiment, system controller 104 may provide programming suggestions to a user well in advance (e.g., a couple of days or weeks), with options for issuing reminder prompts, to record the program, or to forego further prompts of the program (Williams et al. 12:36-40) wherein system controller includes an electronic program guide (Williams 7:31-58). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. and Ben-Ze'ev data displayed on remote control device including event related alerts with the Williams et al. reminder prompts for the purpose of providing users easily accessible alerts for program events such as during periods when a television display is in an off state or the user is not near the television device.

As to claim 27, the claimed "retrieve said instructions from said storage area; interpret said data using said instructions; and use said interpreted data to generate, as said alert, one of a plurality of different alerts associated with said scheduled event" is met by the Thompson et al., Ben-Ze'ev, and Williams et al. combination as discussed above wherein "[a] ROM/RAM 40 is coupled to a bus 42 connected to the microprocessor 32 and the processor retrieves instruction from ROM/RAM for interpreting received data (Thompson 5:36-63) and to produce an alert associated with said scheduled event.

6. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson et al, (US 6,484,011 B1) in further view of Ben-Ze'ev (US 6,791,467 B1), Williams et al. (US 5,977,964), Eggen et al. (US 6,388,715 B1), and Croy et al. (US 6,509,908 B1).

As to claims 22, note the Thompson et al. reference discloses remote controller with a display (Thompson 3:14-25). However, the Thompson et al. reference is silent as to the use of smart cards. Now note the Croy et al. reference that discloses a personal navigator system. The claimed "wherein the remote control device further comprises a smart card reader/writer in communication the processor" is met by the remote device 200 can be equipped with a reading interface 260 for smart cards (SC) and the like or a plug-in module interface 262 (Croy 5:35-44) and smart card can be used for storing user information (Croy 6:1-11) wherein a smart card writer is inherent to the successful storage of information on said smart card. Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. remote control with the Croy smart card for the purpose of providing security, profiles, and other additional options to a user and allowing for easy expansion of services/options provided to a user.

7. Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson et al, (US 6,484,011 B1) in further view of Williams et al. (US 5,977,964) and Eggen et al. (US 6,388,715 B1).

As to claims 19-20, note the Thompson et al. reference discloses "if desired, the annunciator 10 can include circuitry 48, 50 for producing sound" (Thompson 7:49-50). However, the Thompson et al. reference is silent as to customized alerts. Now note the Eggen et al. reference that discloses a television receiver that produces an auditive signal which is characteristic of the relevant program category (Eggen, see Abstract). The claimed "wherein the output device is configured to provide a customized alert for a particular scheduled event" is met by "receiver further comprises user-operable means for

selecting a desired television program to be received when it is broadcast; and means for reproducing the auditive signal which is characteristic of the program category of the selected television program when said television program is about to be broadcast" (Eggen 1:56-63). The claimed "wherein the customized alert includes a plurality of noises, wherein the plurality of noises vary in pitch" is met by "[e]xamples of characteristic sounds are: a gong-stroke for news programs; a cheering audience for sports programs; a part of the tune of a James Bond film for movies" (Eggen 1:49-51). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Thompson et al. and Williams et al. remote control reminder prompts with the Eggen et al. characteristic sounds for reminders for the purpose of allowing a user to quickly identify the type of reminder notification presented (Eggen 2:1-13).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnny Ma whose telephone number is (571) 272-7351. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jm

VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PRIMARY EXAMINER